INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Ridgely Methodist Church	Survey 1	Number: <u>PG</u>	72 3 2-5	
Project: Metrorail Extension: Addison Rd. to Largo Agend	cy: MTA_			
Site visit by MHT Staff: X no yes Name		Date		
Eligibility recommended X Eligibility not recommended	ed			
Criteria: X_ABCD Considerations:AB	_c	EF	G	_None
Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necess	sary and	attach m	ap)	

Ridgely Methodist Church is located at 8900 Central Avenue, just east of Interchange 33 off TS Route 95 and east of Seat Pleasant, in Prince George's County, MD. The property, which consists of a church building, erected in 1921 and moved in 1987 25 feet from its original located, and its associated church yard and burial ground with hand-carved gravestones, is considered eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Ridgely Church is a small, frame basilican-plan church covered with a gable roof with exposed rafter ends and featuring a gable-roofed entry narthex. The building is set upon a concrete slab foundation and is three bays wide, with a central entry bay, flanked by pointed arch stained glass windows. The church was originally two bays deep, but has been extended by an additional, long bay. The interior consists of a nave with eight rows of piers, and three-level altar in the addition. To the north of the church is a burial ground with livately carved gravestones dating from the early years of this century.

Ridgely Methodist Church was built to replace an older church building, erected in the 1880s and destroyed by fire in 1921. The property was originally owned by Thomas E. Berry who deeded the land in 1871 to thee black men "as a place of divine worship--of the Methodist Episcopal Church." The church came to be known as Ridgely Church in honor of its most active trustee, Lewis Ridgely. Following the fire which destroyed the original church building, a new building was erected, following the basic plan and size of the original. In 1987, the Maryland State Highway Administration moved the historic church northward on its lot in order to protect the structure from proposed improvements to Central Avenue. Part of the project to move the church included the dedication of a basement meeting room and museum display documenting the evolution of the area and African American history.

The church is a significant example of a simple meeting house structure built by and for the local African American community. Although the church was moved within the last 10 years, the building still possesses good integrity of workmanship, feeling, materials, association and design; further, the site has served the local African American community for over 120 years. The church is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as documentation of significant trends in the evolution of Prince George's County and its African American residents.

Documentation on the property/district is pres	ented in: Project Review and Compliance
Prepared by:Susan G. Pearl, MHT form, 19	987; Margaret Slater, Historic Preservation
	Douglas, Inc., "Assessment of Effects to
	to 36 CFR 800, Proposed Addison Road to Large
Town Center Metrorail Extension, Prince Ge	orge's County, MD.", 1996; Amended Maryland
Inventory of Historic Properties Form, Ridge	ly Methodist Church, KCI Technologies, 1996.
Kimberly Prothro Williams	June 20, 1996
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Service	ces Date
NR program concurrence: X yes no	not applicable
Reviewer, NR program	(a) 21 (1) Date

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I.	Geographic Region:	
<u>_x</u>	Eastern Shore Western Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil) (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
	Piedmont	Prince George's and St. Mary's) (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)
II.	Chronological/Developmental Pe	riods:
	Paleo-Indian Early Archaic Middle Archaic Late Archaic Early Woodland Middle Woodland Late Woodland/Archaic Contact and Settlement Rural Agrarian Intensification Agricultural-Industrial Transi Industrial/Urban Dominance Modern Period Unknown Period (prehisto Prehistoric Period Themes: Subsistence Settlement Political Demographic Religion Technology Environmental Adaptation	tion A.D. 1815-1870 A.D. 1870-1930 A.D. 1930-Present
	_	Transportation
V. R	esource Type:	
	Category: <u>Building</u>	
	Historic Environment: Rural	
	Historic Function(s) and Use(s)	: Religious Structure/Church
	Known Design Source:	

•

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G.	#72 / 4-5	Building Date: 1921	
Building Name:	Ridgely Methodist (Church	
Location: <u>8900</u>	Central Avenue, La	dover, Maryland	

Private/Religious/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Ridgely Church is a small frame gable-roof church structure of the meeting house type, distinguished by a series of stained glass windows, and an adjoining burial ground with hand-carved stones. The church building is three bays long, extended from its original two-bay length. Entrance is through in a vestibule at the south gable end. The nave comprises the two southerly bays of the building (the original structure) and is lighted by pointed-arch windows filled with stained glass memorials. The original German siding is now covered by gray "brick-tex" asphalt shingle. The gable roof is covered with black asbestos shingle, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation; in the southeast corner is a cornerstone which reads "Ridgely M.E. Church 1887-1921." Interior consists of a nave with eight rows of pews, and a three-level altar in the north addition. To the north and west of the church is a burial ground with handsome, primitively-carved gravestones dating from the early years of this century.

Significance

Ridgely Methodist Church is a significant example of a simple meetinghouse church structure, built in 1921 to replace an earlier building; it is distinguished by its stained glass memorial windows, its adjoining burial ground with handcarved stones, and its long association with the local black community. In 1871 Thomas E. Berry deeded to three black men one-half acre of land on the north side of the "central turnpike", to be used "as a place of divine worship -- of the Methodist Episcopal Church." The first church structure was erected in the 1880's. In 1892 Mrs. Berry deeded another acre, adjoining the church lot on the west, "provided that said lot shall be kept for Divine Worship and cemetery." came to be known as Ridgely Church in honor of its most active trustee, Lewis Ridgely; members of Ridgely's family continued to be active in the church and in the local black education movement. In 1921, the church burned to the ground, and was replaced by the present structure a short distance to the west. After World War II, the church was expanded by an additional bay to the north and stained glass windows were installed in memory of members of the congregation. Today the church fronts directly on a busy highway; in spite of dense development, the church yard and burial ground retain much of the tranquil beauty of the original situation. Together with its predecessor, Ridgely Church has served the local black community for over 115 years.

Acreage: 1.275 acres

Maryland Historical Trust - State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE __yes __no

Magi No.

			•	
1. Nam	e (indicate pro	eferred name)		
historic	Ridgely Methodis	Church		
and/or common	Ridgely Church o	f God in Christ		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	8900 Central Ave	nue		not for publication
city, town	Landover	vicinity of	congressional district	5
state	Maryland	county	Prince George's	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public X private both Public Acquisition in process being considered x not applicable	Status _X occupied _ unoccupied _ work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted _ yes: unrestricted _ no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residenc∈ religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names a	and mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name	Trustees of Un	ited Methodist Chur	·ch	
street & number	8118 Central A		telephone n	0.:
city, town	Landover	state		and 20786
	ation of Leg			
		nce George's County		liberJWB #23
street & number	Mair	Street		folio 471
city, town	Uppe	er Marlboro	state	Maryland
6. Rep	esentation	in Existing		
title Prince	George's County Inv	ventory of Historic	Sites	
date 1974/19			federal stat	X county loon
depository for su		Proconvation Co-		e _^_ county local
	oper Marlboro	Preservation Comm		Manuland
city, town Up	יאפר ממרוטטרט		state	Maryland

7. Description Survey No. PG #72A-5

Condition	Check one	Check one	
excellent deterio good ruins fair unsxpo	rated unaltered altered ased	_X_ original site moved date of move	

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ridgely Church is a small frame gable-roof church structure of the meeting house type. It fronts upon a heavily travelled highway in a rapidly developing area just within the Capital Beltway; it is distinguished by a series of stained glass memorial windows, and an adjoining burial ground with hand-carved stones.

The church building is three bays long, extended from its original two-bay length. Entrance is through in a vestibule at the south gable end. Entrance into the vestibule is through plain modern double doors. The vestibule is lighted by pointed-arch windows in its east and west facades. The nave comprises the two southerly bays of the building, i.e., the original structure, and is lighted by pointed-arch windows: 1/1 double hung sash surmounted by a pedimented transom. These four pointed-arch windows, as well as the two similar windows which light the vestibule, are filled with stained glass memorials which replace the original clear glass.

The windows in the northmost bays of the east and west facades are plain 1/1 double hung sash, filled with stained glass; they light the altar (on the east) and the pastor's study (on the west). Across the north gable end are five windows: three small 1/1 double hung sash windows sideby side, flanked by two larger 1/1 sashes. All windows have narrow molded surrounds.

The original German siding is now covered by gray "brick-tex" asphalt shingle. The gable roof is covered with black asbestos shingle. There is a clearly visible seam in the roof between the original two-bay church structure and the north addition. The roof has a noticeable overhang, and the eaves are punctuated by exposed rafter ends. The rake boards at the gable ends are painted white. Between first and second bays in the east plane of the roof is a stuccoed chimney, marking the location of the original stove. The main front of the building rests on a poured concrete foundation; in the southeast corner is a cornerstone which reads "Ridgely M.E. Church 1887-1921."

The foundation of the north addition is of concrete block. There is a basement under the north section only; it includes the heating plant, which superseded the original stove heating system. There is an entrance to the basement at grade level in the east foundation, and the basement is lighted by two small windows on the north and on the west.

One enters the nave through double doors, five panels each, from the south vestibule; there are eight rows of pews, and a three-level altar in the north addition. A pastor's study has been partitioned out of the west third of the altar space. The pews are highlighted by molded gothic arches. The altar rail is decorated with gothic arches with tracery, and panelled posts

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

Description (continued)

Survey No. PG #72A-5

Section 7 Page 2

with the same molded gothic arches. The lower section of the walls is panelled with narrow beaded wainscoting. The wainscoting differs between the nave and the altar space, and the line of demarcation between original structure and north addition is clearly visible in the three-plane ceiling.

To the north and west of the church is a burial ground with handsome, primitively-carved gravestones dating from the early years of this century. To the east is open space where once stood the original late nineteenth century church. The 1 1/2 acre lot is bordered by trees in the rear (north) and fronts directly on Central Avenue (Maryland Route 214).

<u>8. S</u>	ign	ifica	nce				·	<u> </u>	Sur	vey No.	PG #7	72 A -5	
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Specific	dates	1921		Bui	ilder	/Archit	ect						
check:	aı	nd/or	Criteria:		•	_c -	_D _D	E	F	G			

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

state local

Ridgely Methodist Church is a significant example of a simple meeting-house church structure built in the early years of this century. It was built in 1921 to replace the original meeting place which was destroyed by fire; it is distinguished by its stained glass memorial windows, its adjoining burial ground with hand-carved stones, and its 115-year association with the local black community.

Level of Significance: national

In January 1871 Thomas E. Berry and his wife deeded to three black men one-half acre of their farm on the north side of the "central turn-pike", to be used "as a place of divine worship -- of the Methodist Episcopal Church." These three black trustees were Lewis Ridgely, Joseph Beall and Richard Cooke. The first church structure was erected in the 1880's. In 1892 Mrs. Berry deeded another acre, adjoining the church lot on the west, to Lewis Ridgely, Samuel Lofton, Lewis Cook, Frank Douglas and Frank Johnson "provided that said lot shall be kept for Divine Worship and cemetery." The church came to be known as Ridgely Church in honor of its most active trustee; members of Lewis Ridgely's family continued to be active in the church and in the local black education movement.

In 1921, the Ridgely Church burned to the ground, and was replaced by the present structure a short distance to the west of the original church, in essentially the same style. After World War II, the church was expanded by an additional bay to the north; a basement was excavated under this addition, and mechanical plant installed. A small pastor's study was created west of the altar. At approximately the same time, stained glass windows were installed in memory of active members of the congregation.³

Today the church fronts directly on a busy highway across from a large shopping center. In spite of dense development around it, the church yard and burial ground retain much of the tranquil beauty of the original situation. Together with its predecessor, Ridgely Church has served the local black community for over 115 years.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM Statement of Significance (continued)

Survey No. PG #724-5
Section 8 Page 2

Notes .

- 1 Prince George's County Deed HB #4:223.
- Prince George's County Deed JWB #23:471.
- 3 Interview, February 1987, with Mildred Ridgely Grey.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG #72A-5

cf. Notes, Item #8; cf. Chain of Title;

Interview with Mildred Ridgely Gray

10. G	1 075					
	minated property <u>1.275</u> ame <u>Lanham. Sectio</u> r				Tax Map	67, parcel 99
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

CHAIN OF TITLE
RIDGELY CHURCH
P.G.#72X-5

JWB#23:471 13 June 1892 Deed Mrs. Elizabeth Berry to Lewis Ridgeley, Samuel Lofton, Lewis Cook, Frank Douglas and Frank Johnson, trustees and their successors of the Methodist Church; that portion of the "manor" beginning at a stake on the north side of Central Turnpike,, 1 acre provided said lot shall be kept for Divine Worship and Cemetery and for no other use. adjoining present church lot diagram

HB#4:223 . 9 Jan 1871 Deed Thomas E. Berry and his wife Bettie to Lewis Ridgeley (colored), Joseph Beall (colored) and Richard Cook (colored) as trustees; ½ acreof the manor, provided said premises shall be kept and used as a place of divine worship for the use of the Ministry and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church

72A-5 Ridgely Church (1921) 8900 Central Avenue, Largo, Md. 1½ acres, Priv/occ/relig/good

The Ridgely Church is a one-story frame structure, three bays wide; the entrance is in the south gable end through a small vestibule, with one window on each side of the vestibule. All of the windows have pointed arches and are filled with stained glass, commemorating several families (e.g., Ridgely, Cook, Grey, etc.) prominent in the church's history.

One half acre on the north side of the "central turnpike" was given in 1871 by Phomas 2. Berry and his wife to Lewis Ridgely and two other black trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be used "as a place of divine worship". A church was built on this parcel almost immediately, and there were a few burials in the small churchyard. In 1892 Phomas E. Berry's widow sold to Ridgely and four other black trustees (for \$20) an additional acre of land adjoining the church lot on the west. An expanded graveyard with beautiful, primitively carved stones was begun at the western edge of this property.

In 1921, the original church ourned to the ground, and the present church was ouilt, in essentially the same style as the original. It stands, however, on the one-acre lot, a short distance west of the original church site. It has come to be known as the Ridgely Church after its founder, Lewis Ridgely. Together with its predecessor, this church has served the local black community continuously for 110 years. Although it fronts on a busy dual highway across from a large shopping center, and is threatened by encroaching development, the church yard retains much of the beauty and tranquility of its original situation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

P.G. #72#:5

(MARIL Mondon Cuteud 1/9/81)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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3 C	LASSIF	CATION				
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CONDITION

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CHECK ONE

PG: 75. 3

XORIGINAL SITE

__UNALTERED $\underline{\underline{\mathbf{X}}}_{\mathbf{ALTERED}}$ _MOVED DATE

__DETERIORATED EXCELLENT X_GOOD _RUINS __FAIR __UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ridgely Church is a one-story frame structure, three bays wide; the entrance is in the south gable end through a small vestibule, with one window on each side of the vestibule. All of the windows have pointed arches and are filled with stained glass, commemorating several families (4.g., Ridgely, Cook, Grey, etc.) prominent in the church's history. The church building is now sheathed with synthetic masonry siding.



PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 1800-1899 1900-	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE LMILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)		

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1921

SPECIFIC DATES

One half acre on the north side of the "central turn-pike" was given in 1871 by Thomas E. Berry and his wife to Lewis Ridgely and two other black trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to be used "as a place of divine worship". A church was built on this parcel almost immediately, and there were a few burials in the small churchyard. In 1892 Thomas E. Berry's widow sold to Ridgely and four other black trustees (for \$20) an additional acre of land ad-

joining the church lot on the west. 2 An expanded graveyard with beautiful, primitively carved stones was begun at the

In 1921, the original church ourned to the ground, and the present church was built, in essentially the same style as the original. It stands, however, on the one-acre lot, a short distance west of the original church site. It has come to be known as the Ridgely Church after its founder, Lewis Ridgely. Together with its predecessor, this church has served the local black community continuously for 110 years. Although it fronts on a busy dual highway across from a large shopping center, and is threatened by encroaching development, the church yard retains much of the beauty and tranquility of its original situation.

- 1. HB#4:223 (deed)
- 2. J'B=23:471

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

western edge of this property.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds HB#4:223; JWB #23:471 Interview with parishioner, descendant of Lewis Ridgeley

FF - 3 - 5

CONTINUE	ON	SEPARATE	SHEET	IF	NECESSARY
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_	APHICAL DATA NOMINATED PROPERTY	,	
ACREAGE OF	NOMINATED PROPERTY		
VERBAL B	OUNDARY DESCRIPTION		
	•		
	·		
UST	ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES	OVERLAPPING STATE	OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES
2.01	ALE STATES AND GOOM TEST OF THE TOTAL TOTAL TOTAL TEST		
STATE		COUNTY	
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	PREPARED BY		
NAME / TITLE	usan G. Pearl		
ORGANIZATIO		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	DATE
URGANIZATIO	P.G. Historical & Cultura	l Trust	June 1981
STREET & NUM	BER		TELEPHONE
_	Calvert Mansion, MNCPPC, 4	811 Riverdale	Rd. 779-2011
CITY OR TOWN		•	STATE
	TILL FOLKMEN , THE TOTAL		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438





Revised by the Geological Survey 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

PG: 72-5

25-114

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

	i. 1	NAME ·										
		COMMON:										
			7 United Me	ethodist Ch	nuren							
		ANO/OR HISTORICE Ridales	, Methodis	t Episcopal	l Churc	ch						
	2.	LOCATION					2.2					
		STREET AND NUMBER: Central Avenue west of Rte. 495 (Beltway)										
			(Beltway)									
		CITY OR TOWN:										
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	3.	CLASSIFICATION										
.		CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		SUTATE	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC					
_		District 2 Building	Public	Public Acquisition:		Occupied	Yes:					
)		Site Structure	Private	☐ In Process		Unoccupied	Restricted Unrestricted					
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The building is a frame structure with a gabled facade. Triangular headed windows flank the gabled entrance porch. The side walls are three bays with triangular pedimented windows. The sash are 1/1 double hung with colored glass. The chruch is now covered with asbestos siding.

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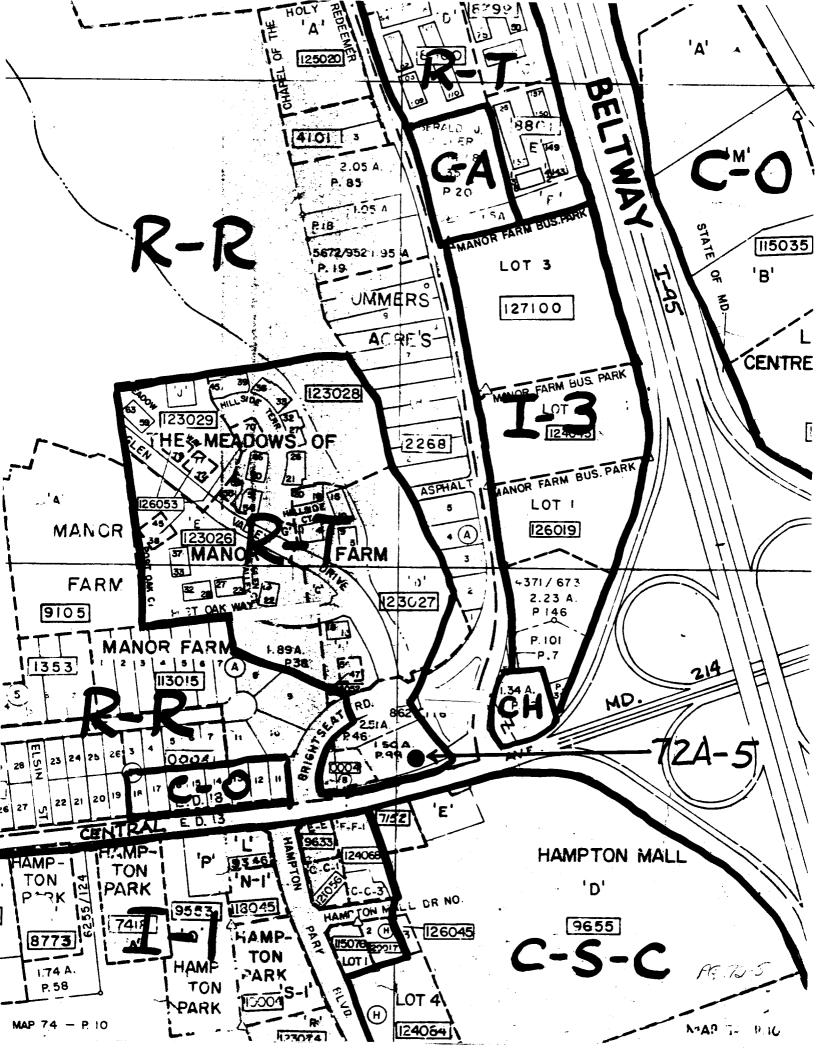
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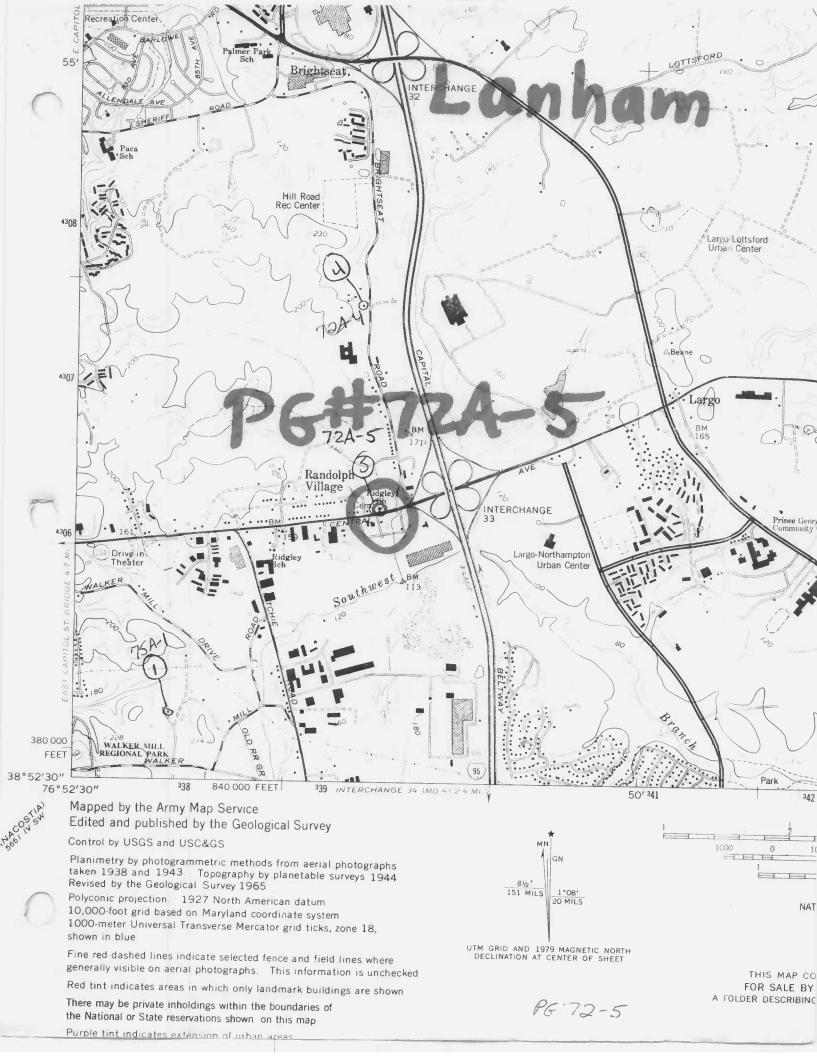
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OHAIN OF FIELE RIDGELY CHURCH P.G.#724-5

JWB#23:471 13 June 1892 Deed Mrs. Elizabeth Berry to Lewis
Ridgeley, Samuel Lofton, Lewis Cook,
Frank Douglas and Frank Johnson, trustees and their successors of the Methodist Church; that portion of the "manor"
beginning at a stake on the north side
of Central Turnpike,, 1 acre provided
said lot shall be kept for Divine Worship and Cemetery and for no other use.
adjoining present church lot
diagram

HB#4:223 9 Jan 1871 Deed Thomas E. Berry and his wife Bettie to Lewis Ridgeley (colored), Joseph Beall (colored) and Richard Cook (colored) as trustees; ½ acreof the manor, provided said premises shall be kept and used as a place of divine worship for the use of the Ministry and members of the Methodist Episcopal Church







P.G.#72X-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
South Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72%-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Southwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



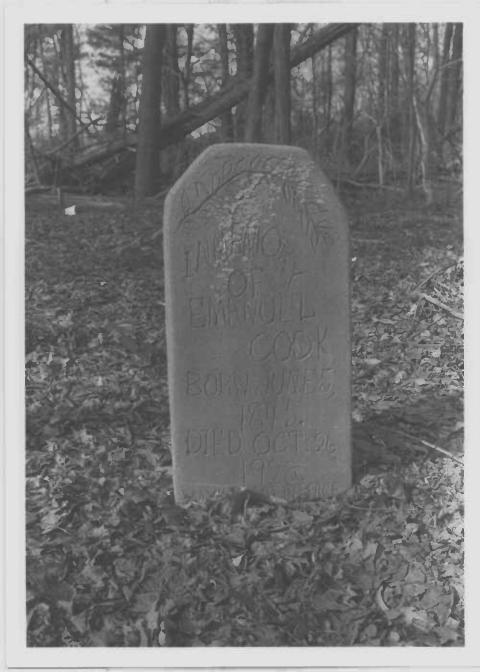
P.G. #72/-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72A-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Northeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72/K-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Gravestone
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P.G. #72/X-5

Ridgely Church
Prince George's County
Susan G. Pearl
February 1987
Interior
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME RIDGELY M.E. CHURCH P6: 72-5 LOCATION Rt. 214 NEAR Rt. 495 LARGO, Md.

FACADE SW

PHOTO TAKEN 9/3/74 M DWYER



12/13 16:12-5 Ridgely Church Prince Georgio So, MD Margaret Slater 9/29/95 Maryland SHES Loosing WE &+ - Chn+



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